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CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
GRAND ORDER
—OF THE—

Anti - Horse Thief Association
OF MISSOURI.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, We, the citizens of North-East Missouri, having suffered so long from the thefts committed by Horse-Thieves and Burglars, that we consider it our only safeguard to bind ourselves together for the preservation of our persons and property, and we call upon all honest men to join us in putting down, and bringing Horse Rogues to suffer the penalty of the civil law. And, therefore, adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws:

ARTICLE I.

NAME AND JURISDICTION.

SECTION 1. This body shall be known as The

Grand Order of the Anti-Horse Thief Association of Missouri and sister States. It shall be composed of Representatives from the Subordinate Associations, and the Acting W. P. of Subordinate Orders shall be a member of the G. O. by virtue of his office.

SEC. 2. This Grand Order has jurisdiction over Missouri or sister States in which there are at present, or may be hereafter, Orders located. It is the supreme tribunal of the Order in its jurisdiction, and without its sanction no Subordinate Order can exist. It possesses the sole right and power, in the manner hereinafter provided, of granting or suspending charters, of receiving appeals and redressing grievances arising in Orders, of originating and regulating the means of its own support, of deciding all questions arising out of this Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules of Order, and of doing all other acts necessary to promote the interests of the Order, provided the same are *not in violation of the laws of the land.*

ARTICLE II.

OF SESSIONS AND LOCATIONS.

SECTION 1. The Grand Order shall hold a regular annual session, commencing on the _____ in October, in each year, at _____ and continue to meet at the same or an earlier hour, from day to day consecutively—Sundays excepted—until the close of the session.

SEC. 2. The Grand Order shall, during the session, determine by ballot the time and place of its next annual session, and a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

SEC. 3. Each Subordinate Order shall have one Representative for every ten members. The election of Representatives shall be held at least thirty days before the Annual Session, to serve for one year. Vacancies may be filled at any time to serve out the residue of the year.

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ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. The elective officers of the Grand Lodge shall be Grand Worthy President, Grand Worthy Vice President, Grand Worthy Secretary, Grand Worthy Treasurer, and Grand Worthy Marshal.

SEC. 2. The officers shall be elected at the annual session of the Grand Order, and hold their offices for one year, or until others are elected in their stead.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The G. W. P. shall preside at all sessions of the G. O., preserve order therein, and enforce a due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws of this G. O. All questions of order and all decisions made by him shall be subject to an appeal from his decision to the Order, and it shall be his duty to put the question on all such appeals to the Order. He may appoint all officers "Pro tem.," and all committees not otherwise provided for. He shall give the casting vote in all cases of a tie, except at the election of officers. He shall decide all questions of law which may be made to him from the decision of a W. P. of a Subordinate Order. He shall call meetings of the Order when business requires it.

SEC. 2. The G. W. V. P. shall preside in the absence of the G. W. P.

SEC. 3. The G. W. S. shall make and keep a true record of the proceedings of the Order at every session, and transmit immediately after the annual session, to the Subordinate Orders, copies thereof. He shall issue all necessary notices to Subordinates and Representatives, and perform such other duties as herein provided for, or may be ordered by the G. O., and he shall conduct the correspondence of the Order.

SEC. 4. The G. W. M. shall be present at all sessions. He shall carry all orders from the G. W. P. and G. W. S., and perform all business pertaining to his office.

SEC. 5. The G. W. P. shall have power to grant Charters in times of vacation of the G. O.

SEC. 6. The G. W. T. shall receive all moneys belonging to the G. O., give his receipt for the same, and pay them out only on the warrant of the G. W. P., countersigned by the G. W. S. He shall make a correct report at every annual meeting of the G. O. of the amount of money in the treasury, and the amount expended since last report. He shall give bond and security in the sum of five hundred dollars, to be approved by the G. W. P. or the G. O., for the faithful performance of his duty.

ARTICLE V.

OFFENCES.

SECTION 1. Any G. officer may be removed from his office by the Order for misconduct or neglect of duty, but he shall be entitled to a fair trial, and two-thirds of the votes of the Representatives present shall be necessary for a removal.

SEC. 2. No officer shall officiate during the time occupied in his trial.

SEC. 3. Any Representative may be expelled from his seat as such, for misconduct, upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting, after a copy of the resolution of expulsion shall have been served upon him.

ARTICLE VI.

REVENUE.

SECTION 1. The revenue of this G. O. shall be raised for the purposes of defraying the necessary expenses thereof, and shall be derived from Charter

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fees, donations, and assessment, if necessary, as hereafter provided.

SEC. 2. The fee for a Charter to organize a new Order, with the necessary papers, shall be \$5.00, the money to accompany the application.

ARTICLE VII.

CHARTERS.

SECTION 1. On the written application of ten or more men of good standing in the community, asking for a Charter to organize a new Order, the G. Order, (or the G. W. P., during the recess,) may grant the same, and such Order shall receive its Charter and the necessary instruction from the G. W. P., or a member specially deputed—all necessary expenses, if any, of the officer or member, to be borne by the Order so formed.

SEC. 2. The W. P. of each Sub-Order shall administer an obligation of secrecy to each member on initiation; said obligation to also be administered by the G. W. P., or his deputy, to all charter members on organization, after the following form:

"You, and each of you, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that you make application for membership in Sub-Order No.—, A. H. T. A., through pure motives, and that as a member thereof you will keep inviolate and secret all the signs and pass words that are or should be kept secret for the good of said Society. So help you God."

ARTICLE VIII.

FEES FOR SERVICES.

SECTION 1. Any service rendered by one Subordinate for another, the Order for whom such service was performed shall pay a reasonable compensation therefor.

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SEC. 2. All persons not members of one of the Subordinate Orders, that may be benefited by the service of any Order, shall pay or donate a sum in proportion to the service rendered.

ARTICLE IX.

OFFICERS' SALARIES.

SECTION 1. The G. W. P., G. W. S., and G. W. M., shall receive one dollar per day for actual service performed in vacation of session, and all incidental expenses.

SEC. 2. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury except upon the order of the G. W. P., countersigned by the G. W. S.

ARTICLE X.

NON-ATTENDANCE.

SECTION 1. Each Sub-Order not represented at the annual meeting of the G. O. shall be notified of their non-attendance by the G. W. S.; and if they fail to apply to the G. W. P. for the Secret Work for three months, their charter shall be considered surrendered, and upon proper petition they may be granted a new charter.

ARTICLE XI.

BOOKS, PAPERS, ETC.

SECTION 1. That all books, papers, and the seal of the G. O., shall be kept by the G. W. S., and by him turned over to his successor in office. He shall fill all charters.

ARTICLE XII.

PROTECTION OF WIDOWS.

SECTION 1. The widow of any member of this

Order shall have her property protected the same as her husband would have done had he lived; and that any Sub-Order may protect the property of any woman if she will pay dues and assessments the same as the members.

ARTICLE XIII.

AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. No alteration or amendment to the Constitution shall be made without the concurrence of this Order. No By-Laws shall be adopted by the Subordinate Orders that conflict with the Constitution of the G. O.

CONSTITUTION OF SUBORDINATE ORDERS.

ARTICLE I.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The Elective Officers of a Subordinate Order shall consist of a Worthy President, Worthy Vice President, Worthy Secretary, Worthy Treasurer, Worthy Marshal, and a Vigilance Committee, who shall be elected annually.

SEC. 2. The Pursuing Committee shall be appointed by the W. P. every six months.

SEC. 3. The above officers may be suspended from office upon charge and proof of malfeasance.

SEC. 4. The Subordinate Orders shall hold a regular meeting in each month.

ARTICLE II.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the W. P. to preside at all meetings, and preserve order therein, and give the casting vote in all cases of a tie except at the election of officers. He shall enforce a due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws of the G. O. and Subordinate Orders, and shall have power to call meetings whenever he may deem it necessary, draw warrants on the Treasury for expenses, and

such appropriations as the Order may direct, draw from the Treasury money to defray the expenses of Pursuing Committee, without waiting for a vote of the Order. He shall have control of the Pursuing Committee, and when he has received information of the stealing of a horse, or any stealing whatever, from a member of this Order, he shall furnish a description of the stolen property, and of the thief, if known, to the Pursuing Committee, and direct them routes to pursue. He may call as many members of this Committee as he thinks necessary.

SEC. 2. The W. V. P. shall preside in the absence of the W. P.

SEC. 3. The W. S. shall make and keep a correct account of the proceedings of this Order at all meetings, keep a list of the names of members, collect the fees and fines, and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Order.

SEC. 4. The W. T. shall receive all moneys from the W. S. belonging to the Order, give him his receipt for the same, and pay them out only on the warrant of the W. President. He shall make a correct report every three months of the amount of money in the Treasury, and the amount expended since the last report. He shall give bond and security in the sum of two hundred dollars, to be approved by the W. President and the Order, for the faithful performance of his duty.

SEC. 5. The W. M. shall be present at all meetings of the Order, and carry all messages from the W. President to other officers and members of this Order, also such information as the Worthy President or Worthy Secretary may direct. He shall as soon as directed by the Worthy President, give notice personally or in writing of called meetings; he may call as many deputies as he may think necessary; he shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for his services if faithfully performed.

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ARTICLE III.

COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The Vigilance Committee shall consist of five members of this Order. It shall be their duty when a person or persons have been arrested and handed over to them, charged with stealing, to examine the case, and if they find sufficient evidence to found a prosecution, they shall hand the person or persons over to the civil authority, said committee to attend personally to the prosecution of his or her case, and having the means and influence of the Order, they shall have power to call legal advice if necessary.

SEC. 2. The Pursuing Committee shall consist of two separate and distinct committees, and shall be designated as No. 1 and No. 2.

SEC. 3. Committee No. 1 shall consist of two or more members, who shall be appointed by the Worthy President. It shall be their duty, when directed by the Worthy President, to hunt in pairs two days diligently for the trail, but if sooner found, one of the party shall immediately report to the Worthy President, and the other of the party pursue on the trail.

SEC. 4. The Pursuing Committee No. 2. shall consist of the owner of the stolen property and two other members, (and more if necessary) selected by the Worthy President, whose duty it shall be to pursue the thief after his route is discovered, and as long as any trace of the thief can be found, and if caught, it shall be their duty to hand him over to the Vigilance Committee.

ARTICLE IV.

RAISING FUNDS.

This Society shall have power to levy an *ad valorem* tax on all personal property of each member, to defray any expense incurred by any emergency.

ARTICLE V.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

This Society shall have power to exclude any members for crime, but no member shall be debarred from a fair and impartial trial.

B Y - L A W S .

ARTICLE 1. The regular meeting of this Order shall be held on or before the———moon of each month at candle lighting.

ART. 2 Any person wishing to become a member of this Order, shall make application to some member thereof, and at the next meeting the vote shall be taken for the admission or rejection of such applicant.

ART. 3. No person shall become a member of this Order until he is twenty-one years old, and receives the unanimous vote of all members present at a regular meeting.

ART. 4. Any member who proposes the name of any person for membership, shall inform him of his election or rejection.

ART. 5. No person shall be initiated until his initiation fees are paid.

ART. 6. Any member divulging the name of any person belonging to this Order, or any transaction of the Order, outside of the Order, shall be fined one dollar and be subject to expulsion.

ART. 7. Each person on becoming a member of this Order, shall pay an initiation fee of———

ART. 8. No person who is not a member of this or a Subordinate Order, shall be admitted into our meetings.

ART. 9. It shall be the duty of the President to grant a certificate of membership to any worthy member who desires it.

ART. 10. The President may detail members to do riding or carry orders or messages pertaining to this Order.

ART. 11. No person who has been or may be rejected, shall become a member of this Order until such objection is removed.

ART. 12. Any person giving information that his property has been stolen, and it afterward appear that it only strayed, the owner shall pay the cost of hunting said property.

ART. 13. Each person serving on detail, or committee, shall receive one dollar per day, and have all reasonable expenses paid.

ART. 14. These By-Laws may be altered or amended by the unanimous vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, setting forth the proposed amendment, one month previous to the time the vote is to be taken.

ART. 15. These By-Laws shall be read at each regular meeting, so that no member can plead ignorance of the same.

ART. 16. Any member three months in arrears shall be deprived of the benefit of the Order, and six months in arrears shall be dropped from the Roll.

ART. 17. The election of officers shall be held not less than five days, nor more than forty days next previous to the meeting of the G. O.



CONSTITUTION

—AND—

BY-LAWS

OF THE

GRAND ORDER

—OF THE—

Anti - Horse Thief

SOCIETY

—OF—

MISSOURI.

R. B. OGDEN,
STEAM PRINTING HOUSE, THIRD ST., KEOKUK.
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